

GDCC Monthly Meeting Minutes Via Zoom

November 12, 2020

Meeting started at 6 pm to accommodate attendance at other key meetings. 29 participants.

Georgia is the focus of the next few weeks.

DJT got 10 mil more votes than he got 4 years ago. {Biden got 10 million more votes than Trump!!}. Biden got more votes than Hillary did in 2016.

Arizona – a first (?) Two Democratic Senators with Kelly win.

Check on possible new member requests? None responded.

Question re imminent election of MA Dem Party Chair. Issue around Bickford participation in opposition to Morse challenge to Richard Neal for US House. Report by former MA Senator Jacques found some fault. [On this evening, Gus Bickford current MA Dem Party Chair, reelected Chair for 4 year term.]

Special Guest: Congressman Seth Moulton –

Items of importance going forward: cleaning up Trump damage; find the courage to stand on principle; insulate the government better.

The election did not go as well as hoped. Lost seats in the House. Senate – try to make up the numbers in January GA Elections.

Moulton described passage of the 988 Bill he sponsored to use for mental health crises. Brought out discussions about mental health needs. Implementation date in 2022.

Moulton – his office was given an award for best constituent services among congressional offices. Among other things, has saved some people from deportations.

Immigration laws are difficult because based on different grounds. DACA. TPS – Temporary Settlement (?). Moulton brought a friend who has this status to the State of the Union. Former interpreter in Iraq.

Dave Rhinelander – What are the prospects for bi-partisan work in the future? SM: Ref GA special elections – be prepared for reality. The country is incredibly divided – reality. Don't give up on values. But don't pass a whole bunch of bills that ultimately will be undone. Be smart about what we do.

Security risks. No reports to Biden Committee. 911 Committee said the initial delay in transition to GW Bush may have contributed to 911 disaster. Impt for Republicans with national security backgrounds to come over.

Senior military – looking at Michele Flournoy as possible Defense Chief.

SM: It is important that Biden has a clear legislative strategy. The ACA situation hobbled them. Biden and Harris need a clear strategy and good communication with the Senators and Representatives.

Redistricting is another concern.

Candace Wheeler – question re the filibuster. SM – The Senate should not be a place where legislation goes to die. The Founders intent was that legislation should be passed by a majority except in special cases.

MBTA – Situation. SM talked with the Gen Mgr of the T. Ridership is 10% smaller than before. Cares Act – restore funding. SM has written a White Paper on Transportation that has been looked at by the Biden team.

End of Congressman’s Remarks.

Proceed to Business meeting items:

Treasurer’s Report – Filed by Lacey Rose Dysthe:

10/16 to 11/12/20

Total debits -	926.38
Total credits -	979.67
Checking total -	3,914.18
Savings Int Depo-	.05
Savgs Total -	5,029.96
Accounts Total -	8,844.14

Note: Credit card needs renewal in January. Storage unit charged to card automatically.

Ward 2 Election - Dan Epstein nominated, elected as Ward 2 Chair to succeed much appreciated Patrick Thomas. Dan has impressive background in community and political work on boards.

Matt spoke with Sam Parisi. Issues a bar: much time spent in Florida in winter; also not tech savvy.

Second Special Speaker: Amy Grunden, Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)

Participated in Safe Communities group. Goal: end involvement of police in federal immigration enforcement. The practice had been prior to an SJC decn in 2017, that arrests would be shared with ICE and that ICE would put a Dept Hold on the person. (Decn?? Of interest?)
Outfall – there was a reluctance to call the police. Women wouldn't file abuse reports. Parents could be deported leaving US kids born here.
Result – public health impact. After Trump, a drop in medical care.

Safe Communities Act – 2019. Endorsed by MA Medical Society; MGH Chelsea Health Care Center. MA League of Health Care Centers. American Society of Pediatrics, MA. Lynn Community. Police inputs from Rep Paul Tucker, DA Morrissey, DA Ryan..... **The bill is sitting in the Ways and Means Committee. Update?**

Four things: (1) Prohibits questions about immigration status; (2) Protects basic rights like a Miranda warning. ICE has a presence in jails – look for people to sign their own deportation orders. Have a right to ask for an attorney, not to speak to an ICE person. Form in many languages. (3) Create standards for police and courts to notify ICE only when a person is released after serving a sentence, not before. (4) End contracts w/ ICE – to 287G agreements. We are one of 3 states with 287G agreements. (Need more information on 287G agreements).

Has discussed with Rep. Ferrante; Sen Tarr. Not at support level as yet.

Need one universal standard across the state. (Atty Gen view).

Sunny Robinson works with Safe Communities legislation.

Similar legislation in other states? California is the gold standard.
Illinois. Differences, however.

Breaking news: the ROE act just passed in the House.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46